

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has indicated that the claims were in condition for allowance except for two remaining issues. The Examiner requested that the term "quadropole" be corrected to "quadrupole" in the specification and claims. In addition, the Examiner requested that a figure be added to show the features of the invention specified in the claims.

Applicants have corrected the spelling of the term quadropole in the specification and claims, and have added new Figure 3 in compliance with the Examiner's request.

In addition to tending to the above formalities, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite "tip" rather than "nozzle" to more clearly set forth that which Applicants regard as their invention. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 may be found throughout the application as originally filed. For example, at page 24, lines 5-13, the specification states in part: "ESI provides the greatest potential for success since *the ions can be introduced to the droplet after it leaves the spray tip* and before desolvation where solvent separation of the ion pairs may assist us in charge separation before the formation of salt clusters" (emphasis added). Further support may be found, for example, at page 20, lines 6-25, stating in part: "The spray tip may be positioned at any distance from about 0 (centered in the nozzle) to 0.6 cm away from the nozzle, presenting a maximum crossection for the ion current of  $0.15 \text{ cm}^2$  and the need for an ion flux of about  $17 \text{ mA/cm}^2$  . . . . The NEC source delivers a proton current of  $10 \text{ }\mu\text{A}$  in a beam dimension crossection of about  $0.01 \text{ cm}^2$  for a proton flux of about  $1 \text{ mA/cm}^2$ , close to the minimum theoretical requirements."

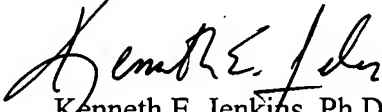
Applicants understand that prosecution is closed in accordance with the decision in *Ex Parte Quayle*, and that entry of claim amendments are not a matter of right, but rather at the discretion of the Examiner. MPEP §714.14. Applicants respectfully request, however, that the Examiner enter the amendment to claim 1 since the nature of the amendment would require only a cursory review.

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Amdt. dated January 5, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2005

PATENT

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 858-350-6100.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**Amendments to the Drawings:**

Figure 3 is added. Two replacement sheets of drawings are attached to this Amendment, each identified as "Replacement Sheet" in the top margin.